

HORNET HERALD

Northern giant hornet stakeholder update



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

NORTHERN GIANT HORNET STAKEHOLDER UPDATE #23.06 – September 13, 2023

TRACK! DON'T WHACK!

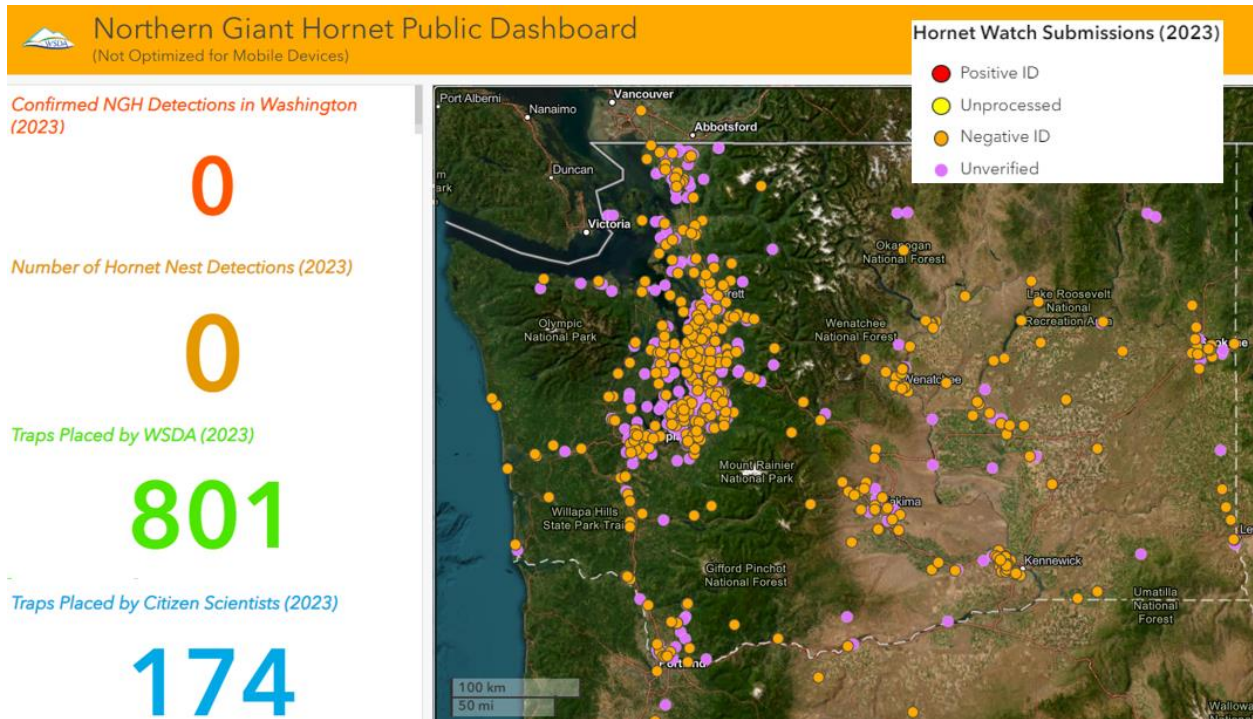
The “Track! Don’t Whack!” campaign is on. WSDA is urging those who spot northern giant hornets to leave them alive to watch where they fly. A dead northern giant hornet provides a detection point. However, watching where a hornet flies could point to the location of its nest.

Please do not try to capture live hornets yourself. Instead, try to take a picture of the hornet, note the direction it flies, and report the sighting to WSDA.



NEW DETECTIONS

There have been no new detections for 2023. You can view detection data online on the [Northern Giant Hornet Public Dashboard](#).



NORTHERN GIANT HORNET FIELD TRAINING DAY

WSDA hosted a hornet field training day in Whatcom County last month. Staff reviewed every part of hornet response. They reviewed trapping and how it was going in the field. They discussed trap coverage and even shared their most and least interesting by-catch of the season.



New to the training this year, teams got the opportunity to try tying radio tags onto dead hornets.

When WSDA's entomologists were in South Korea conducting hornet research, they learned a few tricks. They recreated a plastic shield that is used for hornet tagging. The shield separates the front and back of the hornet. This allows one person to hold the hornet steady, while another can focus on tying. This reduces the chances of being stung or bitten.



The training also included a course in locating the radio tag. Prior to the start of the training, radio tags were hidden in the woods. Teams assembled to track and locate the signal of the hidden tag. The teams were successful! The training day ended with a suit fit check. If any nests are found this year, the hornet team is ready.

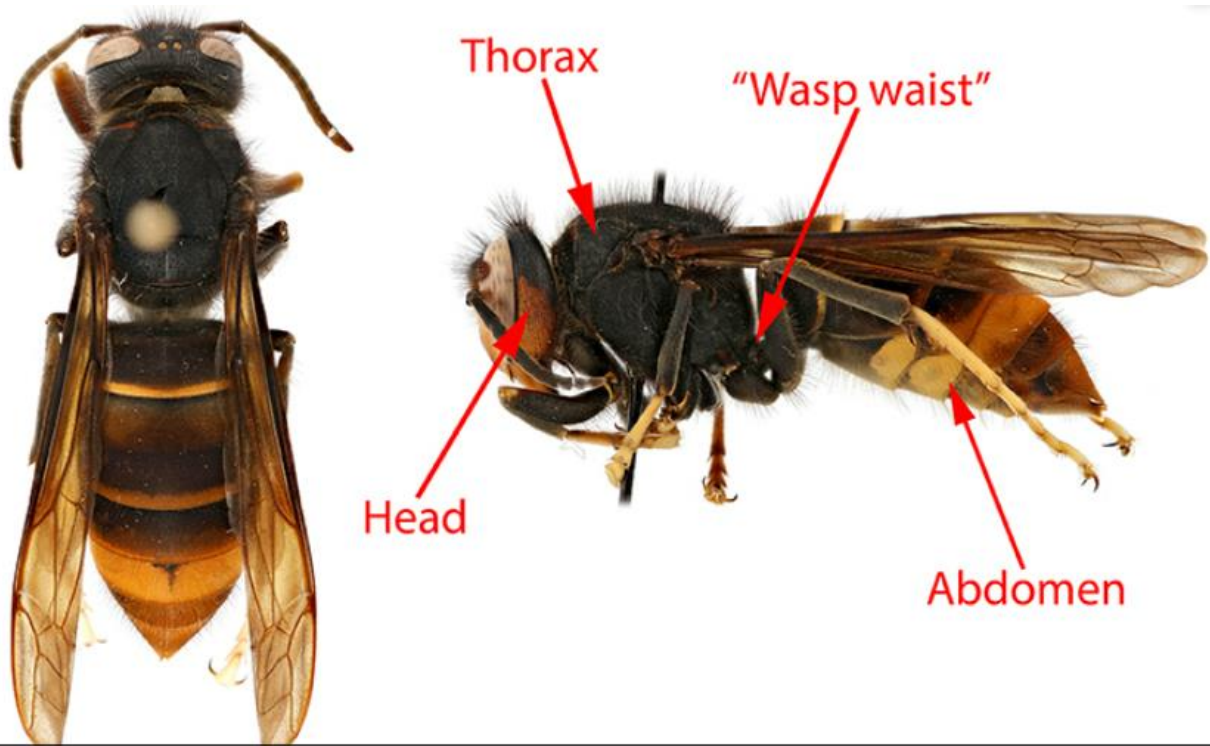
[Fox 13 Seattle shared a news clip](#) of the activities.



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DETECTS YELLOW-LEGGED HORNET

You may have heard that in August 2023, the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) detected a yellow-legged hornet, *Vespa velutina*. Later that month they removed one nest.

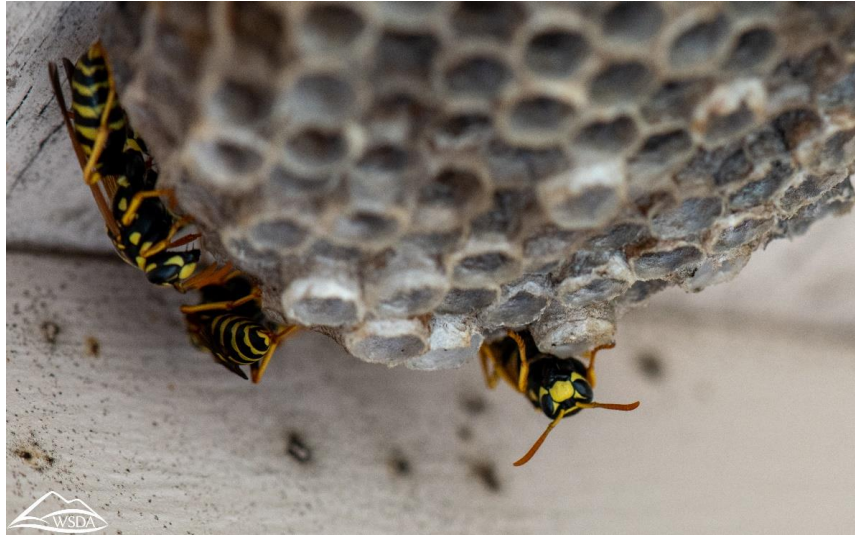
This hornet is native to tropical and subtropical areas of Southeast Asia, and generally smaller than the northern giant hornet. GDA is asking Georgians to report sightings of the yellow-legged hornet. You can learn more by visiting [GDA's webpage](#).



Yellow-Legged Hornet (*Vespa velutina*) [USDA Photos by Hanna Royals]

HOW YOU CAN HELP

It's the last month to join the Watch A Wasp Nest program. You can find paper wasp nests and log their locations with WSDA. Next, you watch the nest for about five minutes each week, make observations, and then [upload findings to our webpage](#).



In years past, residents and WSDA staff have noticed northern giant hornets visiting and pulling larvae out of nests. Therefore, by watching paper wasp nests you can help monitor for northern giant hornets.

REPORT SIGHTINGS

It is still important to be on the lookout for northern giant hornet. If you think you have seen a hornet, [report it online](#), email ua at hornets@agr.wa.gov, or call 1-800-443-6684. Include a photo if you can safely obtain one. Remember to track and not whack hornets!



STAY CONNECTED

WSDA is dedicated to working with the public to provide information on northern giant hornets.

- View northern giant hornet [news releases, blogs, and Pest Program updates](#).
- Join the [Washington State Hornet Watch Facebook group](#).
- Join the [Pest Program email listserv](#).
- Follow WSDA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), and [Twitter](#).